

### **REMARKS**

By this Amendment the specification has been amended to include topic headings, claims 14-18 and 27 have been amended to overcome the examiner's formality rejections and better define the invention, and claims 23 and 25 have been canceled. Entry is requested.

In the outstanding Office Action the examiner has rejected claims 14, 23, 28 and 29 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Lehtinen; he has rejected claims 15-20 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lehtinen; he has rejected claims 21 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lehtinen in view of Takahashi; he has rejected claims 24 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lehtinen in view of Kessler; he has rejected claim 26 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lehtinen in view of Racioppi et al.; and he has rejected claim 27 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lehtinen in view of Preiato et al.

The inventor asserts that these rejections must be withdrawn.

Lehtinen discloses a sizing tool for extending plastic tubing. It is not designed for treating plastic profiles having non-circular cross-sections. Importantly, in Lehtinen vacuum is applied directly to the sleeve via tubes 9, 10. In the present invention vacuum means are connected to the outflow opening to apply vacuum to the interior space exterior to the sleeve. Nothing in Lehtinen would suggest this structure.

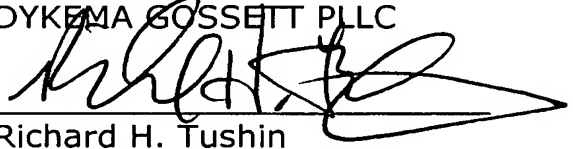
And nothing in the secondary references would suggest changing the way vacuum is applied to the sleeve in Lehtinen.

The examiner's rejections should be withdrawn and the presented claims allowed.

Respectfully submitted,

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